

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

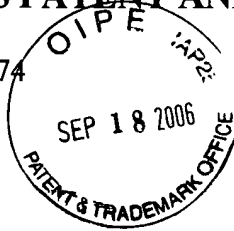
U.S. Patent Application No.: 10/709,874

Confirmation No.: 3873

Applicant(s): ZIMMERMANN et al.

Customer No.: 24041

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For: ERGONOMIC APPARATUS FOR CUTTING SPECIMENS

TC/Art Unit: 3724

Examiner: Michalski, Sean M.

Docket No.: LVIP:113US

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I certify that this correspondence is being deposited on September 13, 2006 with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail under 37 C.F.R. §1.8 and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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**REPLY TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Honorable Sir:

This is a reply to the Restriction Requirement dated August 16, 2006 regarding the above-identified patent application.

The **Status of the Claims** begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 5 of this paper.

Enclosed please find a certified copy of German Priority Patent Application No. 10325945.7, filed on June 7, 2003.